

SCHOOL LANDS.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA,

RELATIVE TO

*A grant of the unsold public lands within that State for school purposes.*

MARCH 22, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

A MEMORIAL of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, to the Congress of the United States.

The people of the State of Alabama know no method by which they can make so united an appeal to both branches of the legislature of the national Union, than by the General Assembly.

In view, therefore, of the desires of the people of the State of Alabama, the General Assembly presents to your honorable bodies, that by your acts at the time this State was admitted into the Union, a munificent endowment was made of one section of land in every township of land for the benevolent purposes of education; an object worthy the acts of all enlightened nations, and one peculiarly applicable to a republican form of government, where the sovereignty resides in the people.

This General Assembly alludes to another fact: that as much diversity of soil presents itself in this State as is incident to the globe; and that, further, the more wealthy, whose pecuniary abilities afford the opportunity of educating their offspring at such points as their judgment may dictate, inhabit the townships of the best soil in the State where the 16th sections are most valuable, whilst those of less means are compelled, from their necessitous circumstances, to become the inhabitants of the poorer townships in point of soil, and in many instances when the 16th section is either worthless or comparatively so, and afford them little or no means for the education of their children, for the cultivation of whose minds the government should have, in our opinion, a fostering regard.

Many thousand acres are lying waste and unoccupied in this State, which if donated to the State for the specified purpose of education and equalizing the value of the sixteenth sections, and for no other purpose, would be applied by the State more profitably to that than any other object within the control of the people of the United States.

The General Assembly of the State of Alabama, therefore, presents, in the name of the people of the State, the propriety of your honorable bodies

donating to the State, for the purpose above designated, all the unsold lands in the State, believing that a greater general good can be accomplished by such donation, than can be by any other disposition which can be made of said lands.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened,* That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their efforts to carry into effect the matter of the foregoing memorial, and that the governor be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

L. P. WALKER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JOHN A. WINSTON,

*President of the Senate.*